

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A disc brake assembly comprising:
an anchor bracket adapted to be secured to a vehicle component;
a brake caliper adapted to be secured to said anchor bracket;
an inboard friction pad and an outboard friction pad carried by said disc brake assembly and adapted to be disposed on opposite axial sides of an associated brake rotor;

actuation means for selectively moving said inboard and outboard friction pads into frictional engagement with the rotor; and

a pad spring carried by at least one end of one of said friction pads for moving said friction pads from engagement with the rotor when said actuation means is released;

wherein said pad spring includes a generally U shaped portion having a first tab and a second tab, said first tab portion having a first remote end defining a first remote end width for applying a first retraction force and a said second tab portion having a second remote end defining a second remote end width which is different from said first remote end width for applying a second retraction force which is different from said first retraction force thereby providing an asymmetrical friction pad retraction feature.

2. (Original) The disc brake assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said pad spring is formed from a flat strip of metal material.

3. (Original) The disc brake assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said pad spring permanently yields as the lining of the friction pad wears.

4. (Original) The disc brake assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said pad spring permanently yields and applies a corresponding decreasing rate of retraction force as the lining of the friction pad wears.

5. (Original) The disc brake assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said pad spring is carried by said friction pad in a symmetrical manner.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Original) The disc brake assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said pad spring is carried by said friction pad with a portion of said spring spaced apart at an angle from contact an adjacent surface of said friction pad in a normal position when the brake is not actuated.

8. (Original) A disc brake assembly comprising:
an anchor bracket adapted to be secured to a vehicle component;
a brake caliper adapted to be secured to said anchor bracket;
an inboard friction pad and an outboard friction pad carried by said disc brake assembly and adapted to be disposed on opposite axial sides of an associated brake rotor;
actuation means for selectively moving said inboard and outboard friction pads into frictional engagement with the rotor; and
a pad spring carried by at least one end of one of said friction pads for moving said friction pads from engagement with the rotor when said actuation means is released;
wherein said pad spring permanently yields and applies a corresponding force from a geometrically decreasing spring rate as said friction pad wears.

9. (Original) The disc brake assembly according to Claim 8, wherein said pad spring is carried by said friction pad in a symmetrical manner.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Original) The disc brake assembly according to Claim 8, wherein said pad spring is carried by said friction pad with a portion of said spring spaced apart at an angle from contact an adjacent surface of said friction pad in a normal position when the brake is not actuated.

12. (Original) The disc brake assembly according to Claim 8, wherein said pad spring is formed from a flat strip of metal material.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A brake shoe assembly adapted for use in a disc brake assembly comprising:

a backing plate having a pair of opposed ends;

a friction pad secured to said backing plate; and

a pad spring carried by at least one end of said backing plate for moving said friction pad from engagement with a brake rotor of the disc brake assembly when the brake is released;

wherein said pad spring includes a generally U shaped portion having a first tab and a second tab, said first tab portion having a first remote end defining a first remote end width for applying a first retraction force and a said second tab portion having a second remote end defining a second remote end width which is different from said first remote end with for applying a second retraction force which is different from said first retraction force thereby providing an asymmetrical friction pad retraction feature.

18. (Original) The brake shoe assembly according to Claim 17, wherein said pad spring is formed from a flat strip of metal material.

19. (Original) The brake shoe assembly according to Claim 17, wherein said pad spring permanently yields as the lining of the friction pad wears.

20. (Original) The brake shoe assembly according to Claim 17, wherein said pad spring permanently yields and applies a corresponding decreasing rate of retraction force as the lining of the friction pad wears.

21. (Original) The brake shoe assembly according to Claim 17, wherein said pad spring is carried by said friction pad in a symmetrical manner.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Original) The brake shoe assembly according to Claim 17, wherein said pad spring is carried by said friction pad with a portion of said spring spaced apart at an angle from contact an adjacent surface of said friction pad in a normal position when the brake is not actuated.

24. (Original) A brake shoe assembly adapted for use in a disc brake assembly comprising:

a backing plate having a pair of opposed ends;

a friction pad secured to said backing plate; and

a pad spring carried by at least one end of said backing plate for moving said friction pad from engagement with a brake rotor of the disc brake assembly when the brake is released;

wherein said pad spring permanently yields and applies a corresponding force from a geometrically decreasing spring rate as said friction pad wears.

25. (Original) The brake shoe assembly according to Claim 24, wherein said pad spring is carried by said friction pad in a symmetrical manner.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Original) The brake shoe assembly according to Claim 24, wherein said pad spring is carried by said friction pad with a portion of said spring spaced apart at an angle from contact an adjacent surface of said friction pad in a normal position when the brake is not actuated.

28. (Original) The brake shoe assembly according to Claim 24, wherein said pad spring is formed from a flat strip of metal material.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Cancelled)